

harangues of a demagogue must be frothy to be convincing, however solid may be the convictions that he cherishes in the background. And success being won by dramatic powers, not by sincerity, it is no matter for surprise that many demagogues have been simply actors, without any earnestness of purpose behind their volubility. But whether inspired by principle or by ambition, their success has been marvellous. Authority which will not listen to argument will give way before a mob, or a string of demonstrative outrages, and in the end kings and aristocracies have conceded to the common people a voting power which outbalances their influence, and is, in effect, transferring the government of the country from the hands of the conquerors to those of the conquered. Such a revolution would have thrown the community into a state of never-ceasing discord were it not confirmed by the impulse of deference<sup>1</sup> to the majority. This may offer to a democracy as strong a guarantee as may be obtained by a monarchy or aristocracy from the impulse of reverence. In many cases it has been intrinsically too weak to give this security, and republics have reverted to despotism, in fact if not in name.

But, it will be said, this is a sketch in monochrome which inadequately pictures the struggle for freedom, the triumphs by which liberty has

been won have been coloured by  
many phases  
of activity . their history is not  
comprised in the

It is extraordinary, when one comes to think of it, that five persons should acquiesce in conduct of which they disapprove, because there are six persons who approve of it. Some peoples, those of India for instance, appear to lack this instinctive respect for number. But we may find traces of it in the earliest Germanic institutions which history reveals to us.